A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, December 14. 1708.

THE *Observator* cannot be uneasie at my taking any Part of his Work out of his Hands, I shall at any Time accept of the same Assistance from him; but having been lately upon the Spot, perhaps I can take this bold Challenger up with the more Advantage upon this Particular; and for the rest, there is Room enough and Advantage enough in the Cause for him to deal with an Adversary, that insults before his Victory, and brags before he has put his Armour off.

In the *Rehearsal* of *Wednesday*, *Dec.* 8. He brings in the Country-man in a mighty Fury, that he must never shew his Face again; for that he has told a notorious Lie in saying, that any Ministers in *Scotland* have been prosecuted, or their Meetings shut up, who have qualified themselves by taking the Oaths, and praying for the QUEEN—And all this is a ridiculous Rally upon the *Observator*, who it seems challenges him to name them; *name them*, *name them*, says the Country-man tauntingly upon the *Observator*.

And now, Mr. *Rehearsal*, having rung his Bells backward, or beat a Call, *as we may say*, to bring the People about him, begins, and he names them—*In an ill Hour have you done it for your Friends, I assure you, good Mr.* Rehearsal, and they have little to thank you for in it; since you thereby oblige us to expose the black Practices, the Scandals and Immoralities for which these Men, that you say are Qualified, are Deposed. These are not Prosecuted as Ministers and as Jacobites—but deposed as Scandals to the Ministry,

Miniſtry, and Reproaches to Religion, as Men not fit to be Teachers of others, or Diſpenſers of Holy Things; but to have every Houſe ſhut up they ſhould offer to Preach in——It is no matter who ſuch Men Swear to, or who they Pray for; and you ought to have been more careful of the Reputation of your Friends, than to Eſpouſe theſe as part of their Number—— Nor do the Jacobite Clergy juſtify the Conduct of ſuch Men: Nay, ſome of them being Men of Vertue, have deſired that the Scandalous among them might be Proſecuted: And ſince the neceſſity of this publiſhing is put upon us, by the Adverſary, the Perſons concern'd muſt thank him for it, and the blame, if any, muſt lye at his Door, for it is not my Choice to do it: I am forward enough to ſpare the Characters of Men; a great many of the *Jacobite* Clergy are Men of Vertue and Men of Modeſty, and 'tis pity they ſhould be rank'd with Men of Crime; ſince then Mr. *Rehearſal* is come to naming of Names, I have one Queſtion to ask of him, and deſire he would anſwer it directly.

How many Miniſters can be name in Scotland, *who are now proſecuted, that have qualified by taking the Oaths, praying for the Queen,* &c. *who are not under PUBLICK CENSURE for Scandal and Immoralities?*

And let him NAME THEM, I do not tell him poſitively there are none at all, tho' I believe there are none; but I undertake to tell him, there are but very few—And perhaps I may make them ſo few as to be next to none, before He and I part with the Argument.

And now I am under the Neceſſity of *Diſqualifying*, (if I may be allow'd that new Word) his excepted Names, but to ſhew him, that I will go no farther than he drives me, into the Layſtall of his Friends Reputation, I'll name him but one, promiſing him more at Demand; and this one may ſerve for a Reply to him, and the *Narrative* he ſpeaks of, ſince the Perſon is brought in by both of them, I mean, Mr. *Alexander Herriot* of *Muſcleburgh*, as a perſecuted Man having quallified according to Law.

And this Account you may have, as I have had it in Writing, from ſuch Authorities as are unqueſtion'd, and the Original is ready to be produc'd for any one's Satisfaction, having had it long by me, little thinking to be oblig'd to make this Uſe of it.

The Account of the Muſcleburgh *Meeting-Houſe is as follows.*

MR. *Alexander Herriot* was ſometime Miniſter of *Dalkeith*, but was depos'd and depriv'd by the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweedale* for Scandal and Negligence; and being prohibit to preach, did thereafter ſet up a Meeting-Houſe in the ſaid Town of *Dalkeith*; and having contemn'd all the Church-Judicatories, and refus'd to deſiſt upon the Orders iſſued out by them, the Matter was brought before the Privy-Council— Who finding the Sentence very juſt, and Mr. *Herriot* to be a Man of a ſcandalous Life, they ordain'd his ſaid Meeting-Houſe to be ſhut up, *as appears by an Act of Council, dated May* 7. 1697.

Upon this Mr. *Herriot* left the Place, and went to *Muſcleburgh*, and ſet up a Meeting-Place there; but the Privy Council receiving Information of this Contempt of their Authority, and by the 23d Act of the firſt Parliament *William* and *Mary*, *Anno* 1693. All Magiſtrates, Judges, and Officers of Juſtice being ordain'd to give their Aſſiſtance for making the Cenſures and Sentences of the Church and Judicatories thereof to be obey'd, and otherways effectual; the ſaid Privy-Council by another Act, dated the 21 *April* 1708. renewed their former Act, and cauſed Mr. *Herriot*'s new Meeting-Houſe to be alſo ſhut up,

Mr. *Herriot* to elude this Law, cauſes himſelf to be purſu'd before the Juſtices of the Peace, as a Perſon not qualified by Law to preach, not having taken the Oaths, &c. nor praying for the QUEEN; and being call'd to anſwer, offers to prove he had done both, (and indeed he ſcruples no Oaths at all, but took all they offer'd him both in the late Government and in this). Upon this, being diſmiſſed, he looks upon himſelf as licens'd to preach——But his Meeting-Houſe continued to be ſhut up, and he was told, that his having qualified or not qualified by taking the Oaths was

not

not HIS CASE; but being depos'd by legal Proceſs he was not to be eſteem'd a Miniſter, and his taking the Oaths, *&c.* could not take off the Sentence of Depoſition, or licenſe him to preach any more than a private Perſon, that never had been a Miniſter, *or to that Effect.*

Upon thi ———Some of Mr. *Herriot*'s Hearers contrive a Way to get the Meeting Houſe Door broke open *by Force*; and one *Hugh Hay*, a *Salt Grieve*, Anglicé *a Steward of a Salt Work*—One diſoblig'd at the Church too, for having been rebuk'd by the Miniſter for Swearing, Drunkenneſs, and other Immoralities, goes to the Cuſtom Houſe Officer, and tells him, he could inform him, where ſome uncuſtom'd Goods lay conceal'd, and gets the Waiter to go to the Magiſtrate for a Warrant to ſearch ſuſpected Places, and went with him to get the Warrant; the Waiter being a Stranger, having got his Warrant, is brought to the Meeting Houſe, and a Guard of Soldiers with him, and falls to work to break open the Door, which was all that *Hay* wanted; but the Neighbours coming in at the Noiſe, and acquainting them how it was, the Waiter and Soldiers left off, and had like to have paid *Hay* in a rough Coin for abuſing them, but he was proceſs'd before a Magiſtrate for curſing and ſwearing, and beating a Man, that would not aſſiſt in breaking open the Place.

Mr. *Herriot* finding himſelf diſappointed in this Project, continues preaching in another Houſe, and is under Proceſs for Contempt of the Law as above.

The ſeveral Clauſes in Mr. *Herriot*'s Proceſs before the Synod of *Lothain* and *Tweedale*, for which he was depos'd from the Miniſtry, were,

1. Unbecoming Levity in his Converſation—Such as dancing about a Bonefire publickly in the Street with Pipe and Drum, hallooing and drinking Healths upon his Knees.

2. Unreaſonable preſſing and threatning his Pariſhioners in the Caſe of taking Oaths againſt or contrary to their Conſciences.

3. Indecent railing from the Pulpit on particular Perſons of the higheſt Rank in the Kingdom.

4. Exceſſive proſecuting People for Church Irregularities, to the cauſing exorbitant Fines to be levy'd on them, for which ſome have been forc'd to ſell their Poſſeſſions, and others to flee the Country.

5. Negligence in exerciſing Church Diſcipline in Caſes of groſs Scandal.

6. Conſtant Omiſſion of Miniſterial Viſitation of Families.

7. Giving Evidence of his Joy for the Defeat of King *William*'s Army at *Gillecrankie*———*Cum aliis.*

Theſe were the Heads of his Charge, and ſo many of theſe were proved upon him, as to oblige the Synod to cenſure and depoſe him; but he ſtruggled with them ſo hard, removing it from Presbytery to Synod, *&c.* that he kept it a great while depending, and at laſt brought it before the Privy-Council, but was condemn'd by all, and finally turn'd out of the Miniſtry.

And now, Mr. *Rehearſal*, *what think you?* I give you Joy of one of your qualify'd Miniſters, if this Account is true, as I have all the Reaſon in the World to think it is, having receiv'd it from unqueſtionable Hands; you will have ſmall Reaſon to glory in the Victory you think you have got over the *Obſervator*——If you have a Mind to make any farther Enquiry into theſe Things, draw a Bill upon me for another, *of your three*, and I'll pay you at Sight.

But if you have any Reſpect to the Proteſtant Religion, and to the Honour of the Reformation, or any Pity for the Infirmities of your Friends, forbear driving me to this Neceſſity, and with me conſent to draw a Curtain of Oblivion over theſe dark Things, that *future Ages* may never hear of them, and *this Age* may learn to forget them——And think not this a Boaſt, for reſt aſſured Mr. *Rehearſal*, I have not ſpent my Time ſo ill in *Scotland*, but I have brought with me the true Abſtracts of all the Proceſſes of theſe Affairs, copied from the Regiſters, and fairly vouch'd, and ſhall be always ready for you.

Advice

Advice to the Author of the *Rehearſal.*

I Would alſo caution Mr. *Rehearſal*, not to enter into the Matter of Proſecutions for Baptiſms and Marriages among the Diſſenting Clergy in *Scotland*, leaſt that alſo open a Scene of wretched Crime, and he ſhould be oblig'd to bluſh for his Friends, aſſuring him, the ſober Men among the *Jacobite* Clergy do not deſire to have theſe Things come upon the Stage, as what they neither allow of themſelves, nor practiſe, and if it were in their Power, I dare ſay, would puniſh.

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